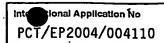
## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



# A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B60C19/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

#### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B60C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

### **EPO-Internal**

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category °	Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
X	WO 00/47430 A (MICHELIN RECH TECH; STAFFORD DAVID KEVIN (FR); YOUNG CECIL (US); BALZ) 17 August 2000 (2000-08-17) claims; figures	1-12			
X	WO 01/25034 A (POLLACK RICHARD STEPHEN; ESCHBACH ELYSE KRISTEN (US); GOODYEAR TIRE &) 12 April 2001 (2001-04-12) page 7, line 28 - page 10, line 2; figures 1,2	1,9,11, 12			
<b>X</b>	US 6 217 683 B1 (STAFFORD DAVID KEVIN ET AL) 17 April 2001 (2001-04-17) column 13, line 50 - column 14, line 43; figures 6,7,14-16	1,2,5-7, 9,11,12			

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents:  A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  E* earlier document but published on or after the international filling date  L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  P* document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone  "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.  "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search  30 July 2004	Date of mailing of the international search report  09/08/2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2  NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk  Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Authorized officer Baradat, J-L

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Into lonal Application No PCT/EP2004/004110

Category* Chatton of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   Relevant to claim No.   P,X   MO 03/070496 A (BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE   NORTH AM) 28 August 2003 (2003-08-28) page 9, line 17 - page 10, line 9; claims; figures 7-9   A   EP 0 936 089 A (BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE INC) 18 August 1999 (1999-08-18) the whole document   2-10	C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	PC1/EP2004/004110  Relevant to claim No.	
WO 03/070496 A (BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE NORTH AM) 28 August 2003 (2003-08-28) page 9, line 17 - page 10, line 9; claims; figures 7-9  EP 0 936 089 A (BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE INC) 18 August 1999 (1999-08-18) the whole document		Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages		
18 August 1999 (1999-08-18) the whole document	·, X	WO 03/070496 A (BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE 1-NORTH AM) 28 August 2003 (2003-08-28) page 9, line 17 - page 10, line 9; claims;		
		18 August 1999 (1999-08-18)	2-10	
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